



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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November 18, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND
ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND
CONSERVANCY AUTHORITY FOR THE PACOIMA WASH BIKEWAY PROJECT
(THIRD DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$72,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority for development of a bikeway adjacent to the banks of the Pacoima Wash.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Pacoima Wash Bikeway Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$72,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority for the proposed Pacoima Wash Bikeway Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority when applicable conditions have been met; and to

administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$72,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority (MRCA) for the proposed Pacoima Wash Bikeway Project (Project).

The proposed Project involves the development of an approximately 3.2 miles of bikeway running adjacent to the banks of Pacoima Wash a tributary of the Los Angeles River, and connecting to existing stream-side parks, local amenities, public transportation, and the Angeles National Forest. The project scope also includes planning and development of native landscaping elements along a portion of the bike path.

The total project cost is estimated at \$1,038,928. The recommended \$72,000 of Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented by \$938,928 from the State Department Transportation Fund and \$28,000 from the Third District Capital Project Net County Cost.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee's agreement with CEQA requirements for the project, if applicable. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by providing access to recreational activities in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of \$72,000 is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. MRCA has met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996.

The Project will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will be authorized to award grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide for governing the administration of District grants. The Procedural Guide will also appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with the CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. MRCA is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of the development of an approximately 3.2 miles of bikeway and native landscaping elements along a portion of the bikeway, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15304 (a)(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 4 (a)(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves minor alterations to land and new landscaping.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

The Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD, but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the Third Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division; and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/18/2014

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney".

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:wro

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors